

When I tried to call my closest Sinclair Broadcasting station, KOVR, CBS 13 West Sacramento, CA to express my dismay that under the guise of presenting a documentary they were going to air an anti-Kerry commercial, there was no answer despite many rings. I find the behavior of this broadcast group to be an unacceptable and unlawful misuse of their position that should be dealt with by the FCC with the decisiveness with which Howard Stern's profanity and vulgarity have been dealt with. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

John F. Salter, Ph.D.
Professor of Anthropology and Consulting
Anthropologist
3980 Waterhouse Road
Oakland, CA 94602
(510) 531-2430